

the chronicle

Starring role

TV's Michael Collie offers group his expert help

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Action is urged to restore 'eyesores'

A COMMUNITY group is calling for action to clean up a dilapidated part of Stourbridge which it says has been "left to fester" for years.

Stourbridge Township Council branded disused buildings at the bottom of Market Street a disgrace which gave visitors the wrong impression of the town.

And they are now calling on Dudley Council to put pressure on the building's owners to carry out restoration work.

They said among the buildings in poor condition was the historic former Page Arms pub.

Other buildings in poor condition include the former Archway Veterinary Surgery, which was damaged by fire, and a former Chinese and Thai restaurant.

Township council chairman Margaret Scott said: "We know these buildings are privately owned so are not the jurisdiction of Dudley Council. However we are asking them to trace the owners and urge them to take action."

"This part of the town is clearly visible from the ring road and can be seen by drivers passing nearby."

"Having these buildings next to a shopping hub just does not give the right impression of the town."

Verdict on homes plan

CONTROVERSIAL plans to build up to 230 homes on land near Stourbridge could be decided upon by March 9, it has emerged.

If Bromsgrove District Council approves the plans, Cala Homes would develop land owned by Viscount Cobham off Kidderminster Road in Hagley.

The scheme has prompted concern among residents who are worried it will overstretch schools and cause traffic problems.

SIX FINED OVER RUBBISH BAGS

SIX residents have been handed £75 fines and 700 more sent warning letters for putting out their rubbish too early, it has emerged.

People in Brierley Hill were among those who have fallen foul of the rules. Dudley Council bosses have vowed to crack down on people who put their waste out too early, causing obstructions on footpaths with their bin bags.

The authority has a rule that rubbish should not be left out before 7.30pm on the night before collection.

The clampdown was launched in September last year but Dudley Council's environment chief, Councillor David Stanley, said penalties were only issued when "absolutely necessary".

He said: "As a result of this approach, the council has issued 700 reminder letters to residents who have put their bags out too early and/or obstructed the highway, to remind them of the correct protocol."

Health

"In most cases local residents have worked with the council."

"In the few cases where residents have not complied and refuse has continually been put out too early, the council has issued a total of six fixed penalty notices this year."

The council say issuing fixed penalty notices is used as a last resort.

The authority said it wanted to work with residents to avoid any "potential public health issue".

Councillor Stanley said: "Dudley Council prefers to work with residents in making communities cleaner."

He said the authority would only issue penalties when absolutely necessary.

Council spokeswoman Amy Shaw explained how

By Andrew Turton

the rules worked. She said that if residents put their rubbish out too early, the council had the right to issue a fixed penalty order.

The rubbish could be deemed to be causing a potential public health problem.

Or it could have been left in the wrong place, causing an obstruction to the footpath.

If it is reported to the council and the violation is observed by an authorised council officer, then a fine could follow, she explained.

Residents in Church Hill, Brierley Hill, have received fines or warnings in what council officials said was an "ongoing issue in the area for some time".

The council will make contact with these residents again to remind them of the protocols for rubbish collection.

The spokeswoman said the idea was to ensure that they fully understood the system.

The council wanted to reduce the likelihood of any further fixed penalty notices being issued as a last resort.

The council preferred to work in co-operation with local residents and fixed penalty notices are issued only when absolutely necessary, she added.

Pub landlord angry at loo-sing cash



Landlord Alan Davies wants the council to compensate him for his extra costs

A PUB landlord in the Black Country is fed up with a constant stream of bus and truck drivers, shoppers and other passers-by popping into his pub to spend a penny – without buying a pint.

Licensee Alan Davies says he is having to fork out an extra £100 a week in cleaning and loo roll costs since Dudley Council closed the public toilets next to his pub, the Red Lion in Abbey Road, Lower Gornal.

He thinks the council should give him a discount on his business rates as compensation.

The public convenience next to the Red Lion was closed earlier this year because the council says it needs costly repairs.

But Mr Davies says that, ever since, around 20 people a day come into his pub just to use the toilet. He has arranged for his cleaner to make two more visits a day.

"People troop in just to spend a penny, and don't even buy a pint," said Mr Davies, aged 45.

"I feel sorry for the people who are caught short, but I think the council should make a concession on my rates."

Dudley's cabinet member responsible for toilets, Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "The Gornal block had major maintenance issues which would have cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds."

"If a business is unhappy with the public using their facilities we suggest they remind people facilities are for customers only."

Website inspired by TOWIE success

A WEBSITE page inspired by The Only Way is Essex (TOWIE), which sings the praises of Dudley borough, has now attracted more than 7,500 fans.

A Facebook page called The Only Way is Dudley was set up by Steven Edwards of Brierley Hill and has grown in popularity since the summer.

More than 3,000 fans have been attracted in the last four months alone – and its creator is now aiming for 10,000.

T-shirts have even been produced emblazoned with the group's logo, which features Dudley Castle.

Steven started his campaign after watching hit reality show The Only Way is Essex, which documents the activities of a group of friends in Brentwood.

The factory loader, aged 27, said he wanted to showcase what Dudley borough has to offer.

Members of the group are encouraged to post photos of their antics and discuss what is going on across the borough.

Members send in pictures of their nights out at pubs such as The Mitre in Stourbridge and the Bluebrick in Brierley Hill.

Mr Edwards' girlfriend, Rebecca Turner, 26, is a budding model and has put some photos on the site to add a bit of glamour.

Lower speed limit plans

PLANS for new 20 mph speed limits outside schools in Dudley are set to go out for consultation early next year. Borough bosses are considering introducing the limit outside some schools in a move to improve safety for children.

The scheme, which is already being trialled outside three schools – Olive Hill Primary and Newfield Park Primary, Halesowen, and Crestwood School, Kingswinford – was first discussed last year.

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Modest marine Robert honoured for bravery

WHEN Robert Jacomb visited a recruitment centre for the Marines he only intended to pick up a few leaflets – but he was so impressed he signed up straight away.

by Lee Watton

The former labourer was just a few weeks shy of his 18th birthday and wondering what to do with his life when he was inspired by a friend to look into joining the armed forces.

And Robert, now 20, who has just returned from his first tour of duty in Afghanistan, says it was the best decision he ever made.

It is also one which has helped to save the lives of not only Robert's own platoon, J Company 42 Commando, but also members of other teams serving abroad.

Toughest

He has been assigned one of the toughest jobs in the forces – a point man responsible for leading patrols while scouring the ground with a metal detector to hunt for explosive devices.

And earlier this year Robert, of Gornal Wood, found his skills put to the ultimate test when members of another patrol were hit by a blast.

His platoon was just 100 metres away and he quickly and calmly located a safe path so his team could offer assistance.

Two men were killed in

the explosion but the platoon was able to help the survivors and evacuate them to safety by helicopter.

And 14 hours later he was called into action again after another patrol was hit. This time Robert led his team safely through a minefield to rescue members of the platoon who had been hurt.

The former pupil of Red Hall Primary and Ellowes Hall schools, Gornal, has received an award for his bravery.

The modest marine says people are surprised when he tells them his job.

"When I was at school I wasn't particularly into sports or anything physical," he said.

"When I tell my former teachers what I do now they are always surprised.

"They remember me as this shy young man. I was always more into things like motocross."

His mother Lynn says his family was proud of his achievements and his brother Tom, 16, now plans to follow in his footsteps.

Pupils end year on a high note



On the piano is Sally Richards with pupils, from left, Oliver Preece, Molly Evers-Taylor and Lily Bloomfield

YOUNGSTERS were full of Christmas cheer as they belted out carols at their annual concert.

More than 100 pupils from Amblecote Primary School took to the stage for the performance in front of invited guests.

The Key Stage 2 youngsters, who are aged seven to 11, sang a range of their favourite carols and also performed poetry readings.

There was also a performance from the school choir as well as a rendition of Jingle Bells in French by some of the older pupils.

Teacher Max Keen said the event, which is held every year at the school in School Drive, Stourbridge, went exceptionally well.

Parents and governors were invited in to watch the performances, which had been organised by teacher Claire Bowen.

The carol event topped off a successful year for Amblecote Primary which recently celebrated receiving a rating of "good" from an Ofsted team following an inspection.

Beware of bogus callers

PEOPLE are being urged to beware of bogus callers over the holiday period.

Dudley Council's home safety service has reminded people to be extra cautious when inviting strangers into their homes over the holiday, as distraction burglaries increase at this time of year.

The service is working in partnership with West Midlands Police to offer tips.

Councillor David Vickers, cabinet member for adult and community services said: "Distraction burglars and bogus callers aim to deceive and steal from the most vulnerable members of our community."

He added: "If we arm ourselves, our friends and our neighbours, with information on how to outsmart these individuals they might think twice."

Chain locks, window locks and other safety devices are available to help vulnerable adults feel safer.

The council has hotline – 01384 812045 – for reporting suspicious incidents.

Centre praised

THE MERRY Hill Shopping Centre at Brierley Hill has been ranked eighth in the latest index of the UK's top indoor shops complexes. Bluewater, Kent, was top in the Trevor Wood Associates table for the fourth quarter of 2012. Second was the Metro Centre, Gateshead, with Merry Hill owner Westfield's Stratford City, third.

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Theatre group is put in the frame by TV's Michael



Michael Collie helps actors from the Side by Side Theatre Company as they film a segment for their new play

MEMBERS of a learning disability theatre group had expert help when they filmed part of their new production.

Side by Side Theatre Company is preparing for its annual show, Dream On, which will be performed in June.

Two videos will be shown at the beginning and end, the first showing a TV reporter interviewing celebrities.

Group patron Michael Collie, a presenter on BBC Midlands Today, was

called in to give his opinion and help train actors to work with cameras.

He first attended a rehearsal to offer advice on camera angles and how to speak to the camera, before offering to be on set for the real thing, at Stourbridge Town Hall.

Chris Male, who plays the part of the interviewer, said he was thrilled to be directed by Michael, and artistic director Sue Wallin said: "He's always willing to help and we're very grateful to him."

Dream On is based on A Midsummer Night's Dream and, as well as a two-hour performance next June, a 10-minute snippet will be performed during the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages Project in Stratford next March.

The project will see members working with RSC professionals.

Side by Side formed in 1997 and has gone on to win numerous awards. Visit www.sidebysidetheatrecompanystourbridge.co.uk for more information.

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Pupils keep tradition of the nativity going strong

A GROUP of parents rallied together to stage a nativity play for their children to perform after a Sedgley school pulled the plug on the show.

The children and their parents were left disappointed when Alder Coppice School said it was not going ahead with the Christmas tradition for Years 1 and 2 for the first time this year.

So they all came together to organise their own play with the help of St John's Methodist Church, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton.

Seventeen youngsters aged from five to seven took part in the performance.

The show was held at the church on Saturday, December 17. The youngsters had just one week to learn their lines, songs and how to play the instruments the needed.

Shame

But they took to the stage in front of a audience of more than 60 people to bring the Christmas story to life.

Sedgley mother Claire Neale, whose six-year-old daughter Maya, took part said it had gone well.

"It was really nice. It was lovely to be able to watch them perform," she said.

Mrs Neale said many parents had felt "let down" by the school's decision.

"There was nothing organised for Years 1 and 2 that the parents could come and watch which is a great shame.

"We feel it is a really important for the children to take part in a nativity at this time of year as it teaches them the real meaning of Christmas."

Mrs Neale added that performing on stage had extra benefits for the youngsters.

She said: "The children increase their self confidence, by standing in front of an audience and speaking. Most of all it's a way for parents and grandparents to share in some-



Tom Watson as Joseph and Annie Gregory playing Mary, with other youngsters ready to star in the specially-staged nativity performance

thing with the children that is magical, special and heart-warming. These special times when the children are young, must be captured. The nativity play is a historical tradition that is too important to let go."

The school refused to comment on the decision not to hold the nativity play for pupils in Years 1 and 2.

A spokeswoman, who did not wish to be named, confirmed nativities had been staged for the nursery and reception classes at the school. She said there had also been a Christmas production staged for older pupils.

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Uni experts help Jacob ride to sporting success



Cyclist Jacob James gets expert help from the uni's principal sports and exercise science lecturer Louise Martin

AN AMBITIOUS young Worcester-shire cyclist is receiving sports science support as he tries to qualify for the World Championships next year.

The University of Worcester is helping Jacob James who is competing in the National Cyclo-Cross Trophy Series.

The uni's Athlete Support Programme provides sport science support for two or three promising athletes from the West Midlands and

Worcestershire. Jacob hopes to qualify for the World Championships in Belgium in January, and to help achieve that applied to a programme run by the University's Motion and Performance Centre (MPC).

The MPC is supporting 17-year-old Jacob, of Pedmore, Stourbridge, with performance testing and training advice for 12 months. Jacob said: "I have been cycling since I was nine when I went to the local track with a friend and we got hooked. I am in the

junior category at national cyclo-cross and am going in to the elite category next season."

Jacob wants to become a PE teacher eventually.

To apply for similar help, athletes must be 16-24 and be competing at or close to national level.

Jenny Macconnell of the MPC said: "Jacob is very talented and we hope we will help him achieve his goal of qualifying for the World Championships in January."

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Ho, ho, ho... a traditional Father Christmas

How Victorians started our love of festive cards

Over Christmas almost every household will be festooned with cards. Here are some early examples and the history behind them.

WE HOPE over Christmas you spared a thought for the poor old British people who, come rain, shine or snow will be grasping under the weight of an estimated two billion items.

According to the Royal Mail, the UK sent 750 million Christmas cards last year.

The custom of sending seasonal greetings can be traced back to the Chinese, who sent messages of goodwill to celebrate the New Year. The early Egyptians also sent greetings on papyrus scrolls and in Pagan times good luck charms were exchanged at the winter solstice.

In the Middle Ages, European wood engravers produced prints with religious themes.

The British love affair with the Greetings card began in 1843 when Sir Henry Cole commissioned the world's first Christmas card. Cole, the first director of the Victoria and

MEMORY LANE

by Fiona Carding

Albert Museum, wanted something festive to send to his family and friends and asked British painter and member of the Royal Academy, John Calcott Horsley to design a Christmas card.

Clare Weston, curator for domestic and cultural life at Black Country Living Museum said: "Horsley produced 1,000 Christmas cards and sold them for one shilling each. 'The idea was a great success but it was not until almost 20 years later that this quintessentially English custom really caught on."

By the 1890s, the card had been transformed from a relatively expensive, handmade and hand-delivered gift to a popular and affordable means of communication, due largely to advances in printing and production. After

1870 sending Christmas cards became more popular with the introduction of the halfpenny stamp.

According to Michelle Higgs in her book Christmas Cards, Victorians used them "as ways of cementing friendship and strengthening family and neighbourhood ties".

A study by the Royal Mail shows we are not so different. Royal Mail's Stephen Agarwal said: "Sending a Christmas card is a great way of reminding friends and family how important they are to you." Clare Weston said: "Many designs were similar to what we have now with nativity and snow scenes featuring in earlier cards whilst humorous cards were popular after the First World War."

"Some designs, however, if sent today would be bizarre. One card in our collection features a spoon with the message, 'A spoon wanted. May you succeed in finding it and spend a happy Christmas.' Spoons, in Edwardian times, refers to courting."



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thechronicle

Nuisance gang sparks a crackdown at shops site

POLICE have pledged to continue their crackdown on boy racers who have been using a Kidderminster shopping centre car park to meet up in the evenings and cause a nuisance.

Officers say concerns have been raised by the public about the noisy group which has also been blamed for littering the Weavers Wharf car park.

Officers from West Mercia Police held a joint operation with colleagues from VOSA, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, Wyre Forest District Council and Weavers Wharf management.

The operation was held between 6pm and 10pm on two nights recently and saw VOSA officers inspecting vehicles to find defects.

In total they issued nine prohibition notices requiring faults to be rectified.

Problems they found included defective

tyres, brake lights, and headlights, windows which were too heavily tinted and illegal number plates with letters incorrectly formed so they were difficult to read.

Weavers Wharf management also issued a banning notice.

Police say they will carry out similar exercises to keep on top of the problem.

Pc Andy Forbes of West Mercia Police said Weavers Wharf was attracting boy racers who were doing wheel spins and handbrake turns.

He said: "There were some concerns about boy racers causing nuisance, anti-social behaviour and litter on the car park."

"We want people to be encouraged to visit Weavers Wharf or the town centre in general in the evenings. We will therefore be carrying out more of these joint operations in the future."

Charlotte is guided to the top



Charlotte Brooks alongside Baroness Smith and Chief Guide Gill Slocombe at the Queen's Guide ceremony

A YOUNG woman from the Black Country has shown she is leading the way after receiving Girlguiding UK's top accolade, the coveted Queen's Guide Award.

Wheelchair bound 23-year-old Charlotte Brooks, a learning support assistant, was presented with the honour by Baroness Smith of Basildon – herself a former Brownie – at a special ceremony held at the House of Lords in London.

Charlotte, from Sedgley, is leader of 1st Sedgley Rainbows and 9th Sedgley Guides.

Her achievements include completing her pack holiday licence – a residential qualification which allows her to take groups of younger girls on overnight trips away from home.

She has also competed in a series of equestrian events with the Riding for the Disabled Association.

She said: "In order to complete my Queen's Guide award I organised disability-themed evenings at guides and rainbows as part of the community action."

"It helped me realise how many questions children had about this topic they had been too scared to ask."

"I've been asked by a few members of staff at work to explain to the pupils what it is like to be a person with a disability and how they could help them."

Disabilities

Charlotte said doing that had been an eye-opener for her. She realised that although she now knows what it's like to use a wheelchair, she needed to help others understand disabilities which were not so visible.

"Guiding has given me so many opportunities to push myself and has helped me become more confident in my own abilities – as well as giving me experiences which have helped me gain a job," she added.

Blaize shows talent



Teenage singer Blaize Hill, who attends the Coseley School and has got through the first round of the Britain's Got Talent auditions

A TEENAGE singer from the Black Country struck the right chord at the Britain's Got Talent auditions with a tune close to his heart.

Blaize Hill who attends The Coseley School, made it through the first round of the competition after impressing the show's production team in Birmingham.

The 13-year-old sang I Miss You by Miley Cyrus which he sang at his grandfather's funeral. He will now get the chance to sing again before the talent contest's panel of celebrity judges next year.

Blaize, who is in Year 9, said: "I feel very proud that I've made it through the auditions to Britain's Got Talent. It's an very important song to me and my family and I hope to make my grandfather proud."

Deputy headteacher Kirsty Westhead-Jones said: "We were pleasantly surprised to hear about his singing. We think he has done brilliantly."

Friend set up group to support ME sufferers

Two friends have announced plans to set up a support group for sufferers of ME in Dudley.

Polly Bowen and Vivien de Vere want to hear from people with Myalgic Encephalopathy – known as ME or diagnosed as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. They are keen to speak with any carers and friends of sufferers so they can gauge the level of support for meetings.

Miss Bowen, of Kingswinford, who has been suffering from the illness for 20 years, said: "ME is a devastating and often misunderstood condition that keeps children away from school and adults out of work."

"There's no support group in this area and we'd like to hear from people interested in joining so that can be changed."

For further information call Polly on 01384 274079 or Vivien on 07967 843353 or email vivien.devere@yahoo.co.uk

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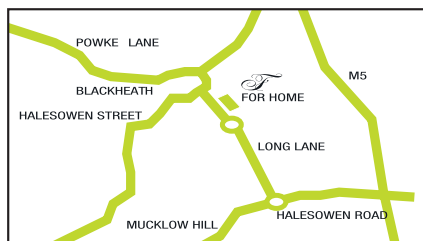
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thechronicle

Stolen truck used to smash window in ram raid drama

COMPUTER games and DVDs were among the haul which was taken during a ram raid at Blockbuster in Stourport High Street.

Thieves used a white Peugeot Boxer drop-side lorry to back into the front display window of the store, completely smashing it before getting in and raiding the shop stealing video games and DVDs.

Two of the raiders, who were wearing dark clothing, then took wheelie bins inside the store and started loading them up with the stolen goods.

Only one of the wheelie bins was taken from the scene as the raiders drove off the wrong

way down the High Street, which is a one-way street.

They were heading towards Areley Kings. The raid happened early on December 20.

More than 100 computer games were later recovered where they had been dumped at Larford Lane, Astley, about two miles from Stourport.

It is believed the thieves sorted through the stolen goods before transferring to another vehicle.

They then abandoned the raid truck in Pearl Lane, about half a mile away from Larford Lane. It had been stolen the previous day from Shirley, Solihull.

The wheelie bins had been taken earlier

from Areley Common Road and rubbish from one of them was found emptied at the junction with Hermitage Way.

Pc Lee Wycherley, who is investigating, said: "We will be carrying out house-to-house inquiries to see if anyone saw or heard anything. We urgently need to speak to anyone who may have noticed suspicious activity in the area, saw any vehicles in Larford Lane in unusual circumstances, or saw the white lorry - registration BG5 80PN. We would also like to hear from anyone who may have been disturbed and who could have seen something."

Anyone with information about the raid can contact Pc Wycherley can be contacted on 0300 333 3000, quoting 32-S-201211.

Heritage trains steam to record with Santa trips

MORE THAN 200,000 people have so far taken a trip on the Severn Valley Railway this year, new figures show.

And more than 30,000 seats have been sold for the special Santa-themed trips.

They have been a sell-out with all the places on the pre-Christmas luncheon and dining trains, as well as the Christmas carol trains, being booked.

It is the first time bosses at the steam heritage line, from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth, can remember that happening.

Jubilant services manager David Mee said: "We haven't hit figures like these at any previous Christmas this century - and probably for a very long time before that."

"It's usually the case that our first Santa trains in early December are slow to sell and the last ones in the late afternoons generally have a few spare seats."

But this year every single seat was

snapped up - for the last three weeks, we've had no tickets left to sell - it's been amazing.

"The statistics simply reinforce our belief in two things - when it comes to seeing Santa, nothing can compete with the nostalgic atmosphere of a live steam train to take you there."

Mr Mee added that the figures were even more significant when considering the economic downturn.

He added: "Even when the chips are down and family budgets are tightly stretched, people will sacrifice many things - but not their children's enjoyment at Christmas."

Bosses said they had already beaten the planned passenger figure of 205,000 for the year, and said with the eight days of festive trains, the final figure could exceed 213,000.

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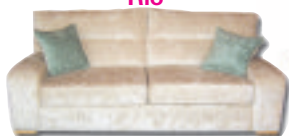
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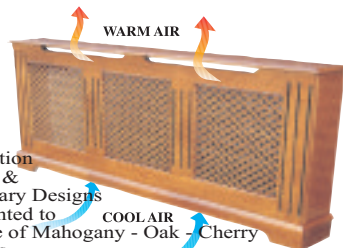
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Show that sparkles



Glass artist Charlotte Hughes-Martin at the All I want for Christmas exhibition

THE BLACK Country's Glass Quarter has been sparkling with a festive display of jewellery and ceramics at the Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley.

Resident artists have been hard at work producing a range of creations for the All I want for Christmas event.

A collection of cut and contemporary studio glass and work is one of the main features of the event by the cone's creative tenants known as The Made @ The Cone Collective. Many of the exhibits are on sale for people wanting to pick up last minute presents. Glassmakers will also be holding demonstrations at the tourist attraction, off Camp Hill.

Councillor David Stanley, said: "The glassblowing demonstrations at the cone are always really interesting and a lot fun with the artists making everything from glass Daleks to Christmas tree baubles."

300 have a say on market plans

MORE than 300 shoppers and traders have given their views on £6 million plans to revamp Dudley's historic market place.

Dudley Council launched a second consultation last month after it was announced the scheme would be extended into Castle Street.

The proposals include new canopies and stall layout for the market, extra car parking and repair work to the fountain.

Just over half of people voted in favour of having traditional-style stalls, rather than contemporary ones.

A consultation was held in March and featured three options for the market, plans to relocate the Duncan Edwards statue and to bring the fountain back into use.

New proposals were then drafted up which extended the scheme, including improvements to the frontage of St Edmunds Church.

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Cheeky Burlesque for Fun (Learn How To Walk In Heels) *6.30-9pm	10	Tues	6.30 - 8pm	£33.75
Tribal Fusion Belly Dancing "Basics and Beyond" (Begs Only) * 7.30 -9.30pm	10	Tues	8 - 9.30pm	£33.75
Tribal Fusion Belly Dancing (Imp to Adv)	10	Wed	7.45 - 9.15pm	£33.75
Latin American Dancing (Begs) * 6.30-9.30pm Starts 18/01/2012	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Salsa Dancing (Int) ASSESSMENT BY TUTOR	10	Tues	7.15 - 8.15pm	£22.50
Salsa Dancing (Adv) ASSESSMENT BY TUTOR	10	Tues	8.15 - 9.15pm	£22.50
Computer Courses				
Computers for Absolute Beginners (All Ages) * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£47.00
E Bay for Beginners * 6.30 -9.30pm	4	Tues	7 - 9pm	£18.80
Digital Photography Beginners/Intermediate * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Music Courses				
Bring & Play (Whatever instrument you play) **	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Keyboards for Mixed Abilities (Begs -7pm -8.30pm) (Int/Adv 7.30pm -9pm)* 6 -8.30pm	10	Wed	7pm -9pm	£33.75
Guitars for Beginners * 6 -8pm	10	Wed	6 - 7pm	£22.50
Guitars for Intermediates	10	Wed	8 - 9.30pm	£33.75
Drums 4 Adults (Full Kit of Drums) * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Wed	7.30 - 9.30pm	£45.00
Creative Crafts/ Art Courses				
Flower Arranging (Mixed Ability) * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Floristry For Funerals (Mixed Ability) "Special Techniques" * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£50.00 ▲
Floristry For Weddings (Mixed Ability) "Learn Special Skills DIY" * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£50.00 ▲
Cake Decorating (Begs) **	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£50.00 ▲
Cake Decorating Club (Imp)**	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Cake Decorating Club (Int /Adv & Sugar Craft)**	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Jewellery (Seed Beading Work Technique for Beginners) * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Learn How to Use a Sewing Machine * 6.30 -9.30pm	8	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£36.00
Sewing Skills for Improvers	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Learn to Face Paint Children (Ideal for Fetes and Parties) *6.30 -9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£22.50
Art (For Absolute Beginners) * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£45.00
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Cooking For Fellas (Begs) * 6 -9.30pm	10	Tues	6.30 - 9pm	£79.00 ▲
Can't Cook, Want to Cook for Begs *10-1pm Enrol Mon 9/1/12 - Thurs 12/1/12	10	Sat	10am - 12pm	£50.00 ▲
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7307 minimum qualification for teaching adults **	10	Thurs	6 - 9pm	TBA
Level 2 Emergency First Aid at Work ** RING FOR DETAILS	2	Tues	6 - 9.30pm	£48.00
Paediatric First Aid ** (12 hours OFSTD Requirement)	4	Tues	6 - 9 pm	£60.00
Basic Food Hygiene Certificate (A must if working with food) **	2	Weds	6 - 9.30pm	£48.00
British Sign Language (price includes Unit 101 Exam fee) Starts Sept 2012	30	Wed	7 - 9pm	TBA
Start Your Own Business * 6.30 -9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£22.50
Language Courses				
Holiday Spanish (Beg) *6-8.30pm	10	Thurs	6 - 7.30pm	£33.75
Holiday Spanish (Improvers) Ideal for those who attended a 10hr course	10 9	Thurs	6 - 7.30pm	£33.75
Holiday Spanish (Int) Ideal for those who attended a 20-30 hour course	10	Thurs	7.30 - 9pm	£33.75
Holiday Italian (Beg) *6.30 -9pm Starts 22/02/2012	5	Wed	7.30 - 9pm	£16.88
English for Speakers of Other Languages -ESOL -English Conversation				
NOCN Language & Speech Certificate *10-1pm Enrol Mon 9/1/12 - Thurs 12/1/12	10	Sat	10am - 12pm	£100.00
Do It Yourself Courses				
Woodwork (Expert Advice on your own Project)	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Recreational Courses				
Beauty & Nail Art (Ideal for Beginners) * 6.30 -9.30pm	10	Thurs	7.30 -9.30pm	£45.00
Am I Psychic? (Begs) 6TH SENSE DEVELOPMENT *6 -8.30pm	8	Tues	6 - 7.30pm	£27.00
Intro. to a Variety of Holistic Therapies for Health & Well Being *6.30 -9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£45.00
All Courses start week commencing Monday 16th January 2012				
Music Courses				
Guitars for Improvers	10	Wed	7-8 pm	22.50
Language Courses				
Holiday Spanish (Improvers) Ideal for those who attended a 20hr course Starts 23/02/2012	5	Thurs	7.30-9 pm	16.88
Holiday Italian (Improvers) Starts 29/01/2012	5	Wed	6-7.30 pm	16.88
Recreational Courses				
Am I Psychic? (Int/Adv)	7	Tues	7-9 pm	31.50
Literacy and Numeracy RING FOR DETAILS		TBA	TBA	FREE

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Royal variety show left me cold

WHILE at a loss for anything better to do, I foolishly watched my first Royal Variety performance show on TV for a number of years.

What a show it turned out to be. It was compered (if one can describe his antics as such) by Peter Kay, who seemed to wander aimlessly on and off the stage holding a handful of cards on which were written the names and descriptions of each of the "acts" he was about to introduce.

We were treated to a seemingly endless procession of sombre faced, so-called comedians, the best of whom was

about as humorous as a dental appointment. I slipped into a state of melancholia thinking back to the halcyon days of the likes of Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Milton Berle, Danny Kaye, our own Jimmy Tarbuck, Tommy Cooper, Morecambe and Wise, and The Two Ronnies. Who could ever forget Freddie Starr's hilarious send-up of Mick Jagger?

And I am certain that that grand old trouper Sir Bruce Forsyth could give Peter Kay a masterclass in the art of compering, without the need of cards from which to read the name of the

next performer. The show, for me, was saved by the magical Penn & Teller, and the evergreen Tony Bennett.

As for the group of so-called dancers splashing about in a couple of inches of water and calling it an excerpt from Singing in the Rain, it beggars belief. I dread to think what Gene Kelly's reaction would be.

The show only served to demonstrate the depths to which British light entertainment on TV has sunk.

B PARSONS,
Millard Road,
Coseley.

Campaign success is thanks to public

THIS year, the "HeadSmart - be brain tumour aware" campaign was launched by the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust to help parents and professionals spot the signs of brain tumours in children.

Since the launch in June, awareness of the campaign is up 10-fold, due to the support of local people who have helped to spread the message and we want to say a huge thank-you to them.

Brain tumours are the leading cause of cancer deaths in children. The earlier the diagnosis, the better the chance of survival. With your help next year, HeadSmart aims to make every person in the country brain tumour aware.

NEIL AND ANGELA DICKSON,
HeadSmart,
Samantha Dickson
Brain Tumour Trust.

Greedy will struggle in finding salvation

WERE Jesus alive today, would he have supported the anti-capitalist demonstrators outside Saint Paul's Cathedral in their criticism of the culture of excessive consumerism, financial greed and rampant environmental destruction?

Would he have supported a status quo that is guilty of much social and economic inequality and alienation?

In three out of four Gospels, Jesus said it's easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than of a rich man to reach the kingdom of God. Those calling themselves Christian, yet have little sense of Christian duty, will find their journey wrought with difficulty. Their choice is between Christian principles and those of mammon. **EDWARD DAVIES,**
Cobden Street,
Stourbridge.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

stourbridgechronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

School's show was fantastic production

I AM not a parent or relative of anyone at The High Arcal School in Sedgley but feel compelled to write and praise the staff and students at the school for their production of Grease.

I was fortunate to be there on the first night of three. The quality of production, casting and performance was brilliant and the school band played all the accompanying score.

I understand the school has recently converted to academy status and hope this means music and performance at the school will continue to develop as this is so important to a rounded education.

Watching and enjoying this performance made me feel really happy. A fantastic, entertaining evening.

Thank you, High Arcal.
MRS JEN BEARDSMORE,
Deepmore Lane,
Straight Mile,
Four Ashes

thechronicle

REVIEWS

Portillo sets out for more trips through rail history

Great British Railway Journeys, Series 2
ONCE again the former politician turned presenter, Michael Portillo picks up his 1840 Bradshaw's Guide and heads off around Britain using his book like a Victorian satnav.

In this round of five journeys Portillo heads to the far northern Scottish Isle of Skye, travels through the Midlands and Wales to the peninsula of Holyhead, traverses the flat lands of Norfolk, finds his way through the North East of England and finally ends up travelling the southern regions of the country from London through Kent to end his run in Hastings.

Portillo with his endearing and not entirely relaxed manner in front of the camera manner uses the guide and the remnant of the railways to explore the history, culture and evolution of Britain.

With the help once again, of breath-taking scenery and fantastic aerial filming, Portillo opens up Britain and its Victorian history like a pop-up picture book.

There are myriad gems among this delightful series such as when he reads out the address to a haggis in arguably the worst Scottish accent ever broadcast on TV.

His journeys take him to the birthplace of the Commando regiment in a remote area of Scotland, to a chemical



weapons factory in Rhydymwyn which was "the most secret location in the world" during the Second World War and then on to the almost spooky revelation of Thomas Telford building his profile into the Iron-bridge in Shropshire.

He turns his hand to trying to make hand-raised pork pies in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, and creating specialist floor tiles for the houses of parliament.

Portillo shows just how much is accessible through the railways and what real treasures sometimes lie on our doorsteps should we only take the trouble to hop aboard and take a look.

GBR II harkens back to the golden age of BBC documentaries along with the wonderfully quaint British Railway Films which if you are of a certain age will be remembered fondly.

Portillo's enthusiasm for rail travel always comes to the fore and throughout he repeatedly pays homage to the past on, which so much of modern society is built, without a hint of dullness or tedium.

This series along with the first should be a must for all railway enthusiasts and anyone who has any interest in Britain at all. **Great British Railway Journeys 2** is a five disc set and released January 9. Cert E.

Boyle's on guard in dark comedy

The Guard
"I can't figure out whether you are really smart or really dumb" is how the FBI agent sums up the enigma which is Sergeant Gerry Boyle of the Galway Garda, wonderfully played by Brendan Gleeson in this dark and sometimes cringeworthy gem of an Irish film.

Boyle is a policeman who follows his own code, which is highly questionable at the very least. He goes about his duties on the west coast of Ireland employing his grizzled and intolerant manner along with a subversive and offensive wit and a highly colourful way of speaking.

Boyle's life revolves around his dying mother and occasionally paying for

prostitutes but he is drawn into the world of major drug trafficking by the arrival of a black, FBI agent Wendall Everett, played by Don Cheadle.

With years of experience and an understanding of the local criminals Boyle has little interest in international drug gangs however, the more he tries to keep his distance the more he gets drawn into the dealings of the gang and the police corruption they are exploiting.

As the body count rises and he realises almost everyone around him is an egotist Boyle decides it's time he took matters into his own hands and dealt with the traffickers using his unsuitable methods, with the reluctant help of Everett. As they move High Noon-like

to the violent climax Boyle shows how justice is dealt out Galway style, leaving the viewer to puzzle over the fate of the anti-hero, although all the clues are there.

There are some truly dark comic moments one of which is Boyle passing on the drug dealers' arms to a member of the IRA and where Boyle's caustic manner reduces the seasoned runner of the paramilitary group to a blithering apologetic heap for asking him stupid questions.

The Guard, Cert 15 is released Jan 16, cert 15. Special features include Behind the Scenes featurette, outtakes and deleted and extended scenes.

Danny Farragher

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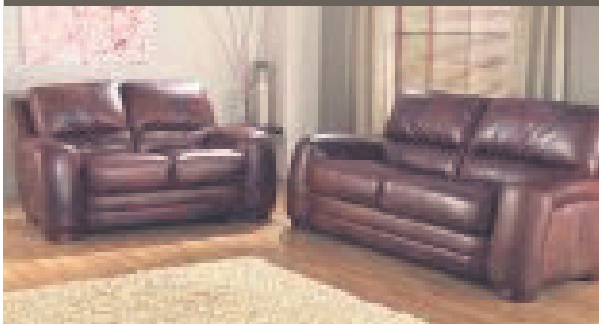
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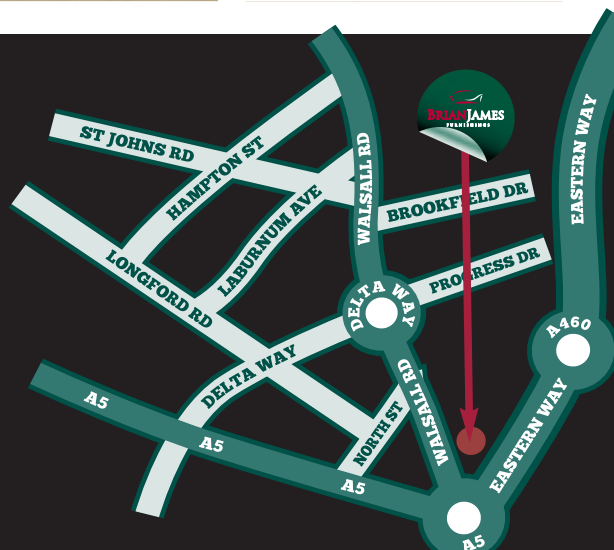
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6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** New Year's Eve Saturday Kitchen. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Formula 1: 2011 Season Review. **2.00** Film: The Pacific. (2005) Comedy, with Vin Diesel. **3.30** A Question of Sport. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.30** Comic Relief 2011: What a Cracker. (R)

6.25 Winter Wipeout.

Richard Hammond and Amanda Byram present a winter-themed version of Total Wipeout, which sees the contestants tackling an all-new snow-covered course.

7.25 FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End. (2007) The swashbuckling rogues join forces with old foe

Barbossa to rescue Captain Jack Sparrow from the land of the dead. Adventure sequel, with Johnny Depp.

10.00 BBC News: Weather.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Swansea City v Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United v Blackburn Rovers.

11.40 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws.

OJ Borg announces the all-important numbers.

11.50 New Year Live 2011.

Jake Humphrey welcomes in 2012.

12.15 Lee Mack Going Out Live: National Lottery Update.

1.15 Michael McIntyre's Christmas Comedy Roadshow. (R) **2.15** Weatherview. **2.20** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.05** CBBC. **10.05** Film: Home on the Range. (2004) Disney animated comedy, with the voice of Roseanne Barr. **11.15** Film: First Daughter. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Katie Holmes and Marc Blucas. **12.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.35** Film: Viva Knievel! (1977) Adventure, starring Evel Knievel and Lauren Hutton. **3.15** Springwatch Christmas Special. **4.45** Film: The Guns of Navarone. (1961) Second World War adventure, starring Gregory Peck.

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7.15 Flog It! From Stoke-on-Trent. (R)

8.00 Morecambe & Wise: The Show What Paul Merton Did.

Paul Merton hosts a celebration of the comedy duo. (R)

9.00 Eric & Ernie. One-off

drama about Morecambe and Wise's early years, from their meeting on the children's variety circuit to their first TV appearances. Victoria Wood and Jim

10.30 Parkinson, Morecambe & Wise.

Michael Parkinson looks back at his 1972 interview with the comedy duo. (R)

11.15 Jools' Annual Hootenanny 2011.

With Cyndi Lauper, Jessie J, James Morrison and the Vaccines.

1.30 Glastonbury Best Bits 2011.

(R) **3.35** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **7.55** Film: Scooby-Doo and the Alien Invaders. (2000) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jeff Bennett. **9.25** Monk. **9.30** Horrid Henry. (R) **9.45** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! (R) **10.45** Coronation Street. **1.30** ITV News: Weather. **1.45** Film: Pride and Prejudice. (2005) Period drama, starring Keira Knightley. **4.05** Film: The Queen. (2006) Oscar-winning biographical drama, starring Helen Mirren.

6.05 Regional Programmes.**6.15 ITV News: Weather.****6.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp Xmas Special.** (R)**7.00 Westlife: For the Last Time.**

The boys perform their greatest hits in a farewell special. (R)

8.00 The Cube. Two more

contestants take on the challenge. Last in the series.

9.00 Brand New It'll Be Alright on the Night 2.

Selection of TV bloopers, presented by Griff Rhys Jones.

10.00 ITV News: Weather.**10.05 The Nation's Favourite Bee Gees Song.** (R)**11.45 ITV News and Countdown to 2012.****12.05 That Was 2011: The ITV News Review of the Year.**

1.05 Film: The Blues Brothers. (1980) Comedy, starring John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd; ITV News Headlines. **3.20** In Plain Sight. (R) **4.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.55** ITV Morning News.

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** GT Academy. **7.30** Extreme Sailing Series. **8.00** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. **9.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. **9.50** T4: Shipwrecked: The Island. **10.50** T4: Beyoncé Live at Roseland. **11.55** Film: Three Men and a Baby. (1987) Comedy, starring Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.55** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.25 Come Dine with Me. (R)**6.55 Channel 4 News.****7.05 4thought.tv.****7.10 FILM: Porridge.** (1979)

Comedy spin-off from the TV series, with Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale.

10.40 FILM: Up the Front.

(1972) A cowardly footman is hypnotised into enlisting during the First World War, and ends up being tattooed with secret German plans. Comedy, starring Frankie Howerd and Zsa Zsa Gabor.

12.25 Comedy Kings: Best of Just for Laughs.

With Dara O Briain, Jack Whitehall and Louis CK. (R) **12.50** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.00** Great Artists. Greek artist El Greco. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. British religious art. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. Historical spotlight on scenic counties in the UK. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. Shake has lots of fun with his new bike. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. Flash challenges Roary to a race. (R) **5.55** The Hoobs. (R)

9.00 Alan Carr's New Year Spectacular.

With Jonathan Ross, David Walliams, Heston Blumenthal and JLS.

11.35 Rude Tube: Epic Christmas.

Alex Zane presents the 50 greatest festive internet videos.

12.40 The Simpsons. 1.10 Film: Invasion of the Body Snatchers.

(1956) Sci-fi thriller, starring Kevin McCarthy. **2.30** Southland. **3.15** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.05** Brave New World with Stephen Hawking. (R) **5.00** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.50** Sall Mali. (R) **5.55** The Hoobs. (R)

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6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Impossible? **11.00** World's Strongest Man 2011. (R) **12.00** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.55** Ben Hur. (R) **4.35** Film: 21. (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey.

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2011. James Richardson and Caroline Pearce present heat five of the finals from Wingate University, North Carolina, where the line-up for the final was set to be decided.

8.00 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks.

A rundown of illusions that have stood the test of time on the small screen, featuring Penn and Teller, Derren Brown, David Blaine, Paul Daniels and new kid on the block Dynamo.

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ITV2
3.45 Film: Free Willy (1993) **6.05** Film: The Polar Express (2004) **8.00** Film: Dante's Peak (1997) **10.00** Celebrity Juice: 2011 - A Juice Odyssey **11.00** Tweets of the Year

ITV3

3.45 Film: Arthur 2: On the Rocks (1988) **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** A Royal Year to Remember **8.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot

ITV4

1.20 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **4.00** Film: Horizons West (1952) **5.45** Film: Lonely Are the Brave (1962) **8.00** Film: The Magnificent Seven Ride! (1972) **10.00** Film: Mad Max 2 (1981)

BBC THREE

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **9.00** Most Annoying People of 2011

BBC FOUR

7.00 Birmingham Royal Ballet's Cinderella **9.00** Motown at the BBC **10.00** Edinburgh Comedy Live **11.00** Charlie Brooker's 2011 Wipe

E4

3.30 Sorority Girls **4.35** Desperate Scousewives **5.35** Scrubs **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Mean Girls (2004) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4

3.10 The Lavender Hill Mob (1951) **4.50** The Three Musketeers (1993) **6.55** Footloose (1984) **9.00** Four Lions (2010) Four British Muslims form an incompetent terrorist cell and hatch a scheme to attack the London marathon. Chris Morris' satirical comedy, starring Rizwan Ahmed, Kayvan Novak, Nigel Lindsay, Adeel Akhtar, Arsher Ali, Preeya Kalidas and Julia Davis. **11.00** Rushmore (1999) A student causes chaos at a private school when he develops a crush on a teacher. Comedy drama, starring Jason Schwartzman and Bill Murray.

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FILM4

New Year's Day

Great at
kleening*

*not so good at spelling

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BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital

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6.00 Breakfast. **8.40** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** Winter Wipeout. (R) **11.00** Film: Mouse Hunt. (1997) Slapstick comedy, starring Lee Evans and Nathan Lane. **12.35** BBC News: Weather. **12.45** The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. **12.50** Songs of Praise - New Year's Day Big Sing. **1.30** Film: Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit. (2005) Oscar-winning animated adventure, with the voice of Peter Sallis. **2.50** Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian. (2008) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Ben Barnes. **5.05** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.30** Film: Bolt. (2008) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of John Travolta.

7.00 EastEnders. Extended episode. Pat's friends and family gather by her bedside as her condition deteriorates rapidly - but the person she wants to see most of all, her son David, is not there.

8.10 Sherlock. New series. Holmes investigates a case of blackmail threatening to topple the monarchy - only to become engaged in a battle of wits with a woman as brilliant as himself.

9.40 Absolutely Fabulous. Edina tries to win Sally's respect.

10.10 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

10.35 Adele Live at the Royal Albert Hall. Coverage of the singer in concert in September 2011.

11.35 FILM: Cold Mountain. (2003) Period drama, starring Nicole Kidman.

2.00 Weatherview. **2.05** BBC News.

6.00 CBBC. **9.55** Film: Gun Fury. (1953) Western, starring Rock Hudson. **11.15** New Year's Day Concert from Vienna 2012. **12.40** Film: Dean Spanley. (2008) Comedy, with Sam Neill, Peter O'Toole and Jeremy Northam. **2.15** Film: Force 10 from Navarone. (1978) Second World War adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford. **4.15** The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message. (R) **4.20** Film: The Eagle Has Landed. (1976) Adventure, with Michael Caine.



6.30 You Have Been Watching - David Croft. A tribute to the TV comedy writer. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring puts the defence of the realm before personal pride, resulting in problems. Classic comedy with the Home Guard, with Arthur Lowe. (R)

8.00 Great Barrier Reef. New series. Monty Halls explores the Australian coral reef and the wildlife that inhabits it.

9.00 A History of Ancient Britain Special: Orkney's Stone Age Temple. A newly discovered 5,000-year-old temple on Orkney.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. **11.00** Qi XL. (R)

11.45 FILM: Broken Flowers. (2005) Comedy drama, starring Bill Murray.

1.25 BBC News. **2.30** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.05** Film: Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase. (2001) Animated adventure, with the voice of Bob Bergen. **9.25** Film: Beethoven. (1991) Canine comedy, starring Charles Grodin. **11.00** Film: Licence to Kill. (1989) James Bond spy thriller, starring Timothy Dalton. **1.30** ITV News: Weather. **1.40** Inspector Morse. (R) **3.45** Downton Abbey. (R) **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed Top 100 Kids! Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile-phone footage from the archives, featuring messy eaters, troublesome teens and sibling rivalries.

7.00 FILM: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. (2009) Premiere. The wizard must uncover the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past to try to end his reign of terror. Fantasy, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

9.45 The Unforgettable John Thaw. A tribute to the much-loved actor.

10.45 ITV News: Weather.



11.00 FILM: Analyze This. (1999) Comedy, starring Robert De Niro.

12.55 Premiership Rugby Union: ITV News: Headlines. **1.50** Film: The Whole Ten Yards. (2004) **3.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.55** ITV Morning News.

6.20 The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** Film: The Land Before Time. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Gabriel Damon. **8.00** Film: Arctic Tale. (2007) Premiere. Documentary on Arctic wildlife. **9.45** Film: The Bridge on the River Kwai. (1957) Oscar-winning Second World War drama, starring Alec Guinness. **12.50** Channel 4 Racing. **3.20** Film: True Grit. (1969) Western, starring John Wayne. **5.45** Channel 4 News. **5.55** 4thought.tv.

6.00 Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show.

7.00 Come Dine with Me. Sheila Whelan Duffy hosts the first dinner party in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

8.00 The Hotel. New series. Documentary exploring life at the Grosvenor Hotel, Torquay.



9.00 Bear's Wild Weekend with Jonathan Ross. Survival expert Bear Grylls takes the chat show host to little-known Canary Island La Palma, where they trek through dense jungle and walk down an active volcano.

10.00 Hacks.

11.05 Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2011. (R)

1.10 American Football Live. A match from the final weekend of the season. **4.45** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) **5.10** Post Modern Pastimes. (R) **5.25** Brothers & Sisters. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.40** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Igan Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Mio Mao. (R) **8.10** Olivia. (R) **8.25** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.30** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.40** Angelina Ballerina. **8.55** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **10.15** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.45** The Top 10 Aussie Soap Moments 2011. **11.45** World's Strongest Man 2011. (R) **12.45** Film: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. (1954) Musical Western, starring Howard Keel. **2.50** Film: The Wizard of Oz. (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. **4.55** Film: Return to Oz. (1985) Fantasy adventure, starring Fairuza Balk.

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2011. The final from Wingate University, North Carolina.

8.00 An Audience with Dame Edna: 1980. (R)

9.15 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of 2011. (R)

12.10 The Truth About Cheryl Cole. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.10** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.35** Divine Designs. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
2.45 Film: Richie Rich (1994) **4.45** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **7.00** All Star Family Fortunes Christmas Special **8.00** The Cube Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: I Am Legend (2007) **11.00** Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)

ITV3
3.50 Film: Carry On Camping (1969) **5.45** Film: Doc Hollywood (1991) **7.45** Lewis. A woman's murder is copied from the pages of a novel. **9.45** Film: Sophie's Choice (1982)

ITV4
3.20 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **6.00** Film: 633 Squadron (1964) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Nighthawks (1981) **11.00** Film: Coogan's Bluff (1968)

BBC THREE
7.00 Film: WALL-E (2008) **8.30** BURN.E **8.40** Pixar: 25 Magic Moments **9.40** Film: Ratatouille (2007) **11.20** EastEnders

BBC FOUR
7.00 New Year's Day Concert from Vienna 2012 **9.00** Film: Half a Sixpence (1967) **11.20** Come Bell Ringing with Charles Hazlewood

E4
3.45 Being Erica **4.40** Samantha Who? **5.10** Film: Black Knight (2001) **7.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee (1986) **9.00** World's Greatest Body Shockers - Part 1 **10.00** Tim Minchin: Ready for This? **11.45** PhoneShop

FILM4
2.10 Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **4.00** Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **6.05** Transformers (2007) Sci-fi action adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox. **8.50** The Iron Lady Interview Special **9.00** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) A cocky teenager plays truant from school and spends the day dragging his friends into all manner of adventures in the big city. Comedy, with Matthew Broderick and Jennifer Grey. **11.00** Scary Movie (2000)

Happy New Year!

Stourvalley Cat Rescue

We would like to thank all our supporters for all their support in another successful year
01384 375832

Age Concern Stourbridge

Would like to wish all our supporters and volunteers a Happy New Year
01384 443296

Blewe Interiors

Would like to wish all our customers a Happy New Year
01384 393841

Ace Motors

Would like to thank all our customers for their support and wish them a Happy New Year
01384 262311

Stourbridge Travel

We would like to thank all our customers for their support and wish them a Happy New Year
01384 390601

Oaktree Dental Practice

We would like to wish all our customers old and new a Happy New Year
01384 372525

Geoff Hill Electrical

We would like to thank all our customers for their support and wish them a Happy New Year
01384 395852

Dreamland Bedding Centre

Wishing all our customers a Happy New Year
01384 74166

Security Locksmith

Lock Problems? Lost Key? Wishing all our customers old and new a Happy New Year
01384 354344

World of Mobility

We would like to thank all our customers for their support and wish you a Happy New Year
01384 378252

Enville Ales

Wishing all our customers a Happy New Year
01384 873728

Stourbridge Nail Studio

Thanking all customers for their support and wishing all a Happy New Year
01384 376677

Woodcraft Hardware Ltd

Wishing all customers old and new a Happy New Year
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Stourbridge Chronicle

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Friday

BBC1 9.00 Breakfast 9.15 Wanted Down Under. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer: BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Saints and Scoundrels. 11.45 Britain's Empty Homes: BBC News; Weather. 12.00 The Big Breakfast: BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News: Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather. 3.30 CBBC. 5.15 Fittless. 6.15 Regional News: Weather. 6.30 Regional News: Weather. 7.00 The Big Breakfast: Mastermind. 7.30 A Question of Sport; (R) BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 The One Lenny Henry. 9.00 Hustle. 10.00 BBC News. 10.30 The Big Breakfast: Mastermind. 11.00 The Norton Show. 11.20 The National Friday Night Draws. 11.30 Film: The Infidel. (2010) 11.50 Weatherwise. 11.55 Sign Zone: Natural World: The World of the Elephant. 12.00 The World of the Elephant. 12.15 James May's Man Lab. (R) 3.15 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies, 7.00 CBBC, 8.25 CBeebies, 11.30 Film: *Stolen Summer* (2002) Drama, starring Aidan Quinn, 1.00 *Man and His Campervan*, (R) 1.30 *To Buy or Not to Buy*, (R) 1.55 *Mr. Bean's Holiday*, 2.30 *Rescue* (R) 3.45 *Flog It!* 4.30 *Perfection*, 5.15 *Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is*, 6.00 *Eggheads*, 6.30 *Great British Railway Journeys*, 7.00 *Great Barrier Reef*, (R) 8.00 *Mastermind*, 8.30 *Mastermind*, 9.00 *Sicily Unpacked*, 10.00 *QI*, (R) 10.30 *Newsnight*, 11.00 *Weather*, 11.05 *Film* 50 *Dead Men Walking*, (PG) 11.30 *Mr. Bean's Holiday*, 12.05 *Film* *Sturgess*, 12.55 *Film*: *Beaufort*, (2007) *Premiere*, Israeli war drama, starring Oshri Cohen, 2.55 *BBC News*, 3.35 *Close*.

ITV1 6.30 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 2.30 Loose Women. 3.00 Regional News; Weather. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Salafi Vet School. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Law & Order: UK. 9.30 Loose Women. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 It'll Be Alright on the Night. 2. (R) 11.35 Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? New Year Special. (R) 12.30 The Zodiaco Show. 1.30 Loose Women. 2.30 Deliverance 1972 Thriller, starring Bud Reynolds. 4.20 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV News. 6.00 Deliverance

Channel 4 6.00 The Treacle People (R) 8.10 The Hoobs (R)
6.35 The Hoobs (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed, 7.30 Perfect Couples, 7.55 According to Jim, (R) 8.20 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) 8.50 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) 9.15 The Bill Engvall Show (R) 9.45 Big Bang Theory, (R) 10.25 Film: Hello, Dolly! (1969) Period musical, starring Barbra Streisand, 1.10 The Untouchables (TV-MA) 11.00 The Second World War drama, starring Martin Balsam, 4.00 Deal or No Deal, 5.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me (R) 6.00 The Simpsons (R) 6.30 Holyoaks (R) 7.00 The Simpsons (R) 7.30 The Simpsons (R) 8.00 Dine with Me: Celebrity Special, 8.30 New Girl, 9.00 The Bank Job, 10.00 Rude Tube 2.12, 10.05 Film: Big Trouble in Little China, (1986) Comedy film, starring Kurt Russell, 1.00 Random Acts, 2.00 Lucky Escape, (R) 2.05 My Name Is Earl, (R) 2.45 Hung, (R) 3.35 St. Elsewhere, (R) 4.00 Hugh's Fish Fight, (R) 5.15 Brothers & Sisters, (R)

10.15 Meerkat Manor; (H) 10.45 Mokeylie Lite. (H) 11.15 5 News Lunchtime. 11.25 Celebrity Big Brother. (H) 11.35 Magic Beyond Words. The JK Rowling Story. (R) 1.15 Film Relative Stranger. (2009) Drama, starring Eric La Salle. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 6.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) 6.55 5 News. 7.00 Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers; (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 World's Toughest Truckee. New series. Eight drivers navigate treacherous roads; 5 News at 9. 9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. 10.00 The Big Bang Musical. 11.00 Celebrity. 11.30 The Big Bang Musical. Side. 12.00 SuperCasino. 4.05 Motorsport Monday. 4.30 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R)

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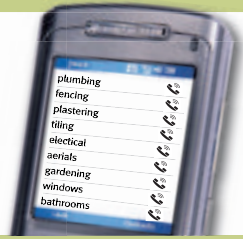
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Bargain buy? Fernando Torres

If you live to be 150, you might see this . . .

IT was the British scientist Aubrey De Gray who issued one of the more thought provoking sentences of 2011, writes **Martin Swain**.

The University of Cambridge graduate said the first person who will live to see their 150th birthday has already been born. Even more incredibly, he claimed that the first person to live for 1,000 years will be born in the next two decades.

The British scientist sees a time when people will go to their doctors for regular 'maintenance', which by then will include gene therapies, stem cell therapies, immune stimulation and a range of other advanced techniques to keep them in good shape.

What, I wondered, will the 150-year-old football fan of tomorrow live to see? Here's five to begin with:

1. England win the World Cup. Maybe. It must be one of the great laments of this most financially successful era of the domestic game that international glory continues to elude the nation. A huge pity this.

Many will remember the invigorating buzz that electrified the country during the halcyon days of Euro 96; there are plenty of us still around who felt the extraordinary impact of 1966.

There may be many things wrong with our game, many factors for which it is justifiably resented in other parts of the world. But there is no doubt that

the English remain one of the driving forces of football's march across the globe.

2. Fernando Torres score: Has there been anything more baffling than the collapse in this formerly brilliant striker's form since his move to Chelsea? It may be too late for him at Chelsea but he could be a brilliant signing – at an inevitably lesser price – for another club in the future.

3. The Baggies signing a player in Janu. . . sorry. Scrub that. Now we are getting a little far-fetched.

4. The fit and proper persons test actually applied. There is nothing more glib, it appears, than a slightly desperate football club pining for a shot at

glamour and subsequently seduced by an unknown name from a distant land turning up and promising fistfuls of the green stuff to finance their dreams.

But from Shiniwatra to Yeung, via any number of dodgy characters from the USSR's break-up not to mention the laughable Venky's at Blackburn, they invariably turn out to be chancers without a proverbial pot in which to take a comfort break.

5. Jeff Bonser putting in an appearance at Walsall: Or, at least, communicating with the his club's dwindling band of followers.

During the days before he shut himself off from the world, Bonser maintained he would never do anything to

the detriment of Walsall FC. But, in case he hadn't noticed, Walsall FC is dying.

And it's on his watch. He and his club, which enjoys a natural and broad affection among the region's football followers, need all the help they can muster.

Taking his ball home and locking himself in his room for a good sulk is, frankly, childish and serves only to endorse those who damn him.

Read Martin Swain every day in the Express & Star

Big Sam gets thumbs up for silencing Brady bunch

Chief Sports Writer Martin Swain takes a sideways look back on 2011 and gives out his awards

Outstanding Contribution to English Football

OK, so the Hammers faithful may be moaning about the football they're seeing – but it's all gone quiet down Upton Park thanks to Sam Allardyce.

Any man who can lay his hands on industrial-sized gaffer tape and stick it over the mouths of the unholy trinity of Gold, Sullivan and Brady deserves our praise.

The Ally McLeod Premature Triumphalism Ribbon

To be pinned on the lapels of Manchester United chief executive David Gill. "Yes, we can get a Barcelona or a Real Madrid, but I'm sure they don't want to play us in the last 16 either. At the end of the day, you never know what the draw is going to be," he said two weeks before a slightly more uncomfortable excursion to Switzerland than he imagined.

The Cameron-Sarkozy Entente Cordiale Award

To Marseille sporting director José Anigo following his words of advice for any budding French Ligue 1 talents dreaming of playing their trade in the Premier League: "Behind the 'big guns' like Chelsea or Manchester (United), there's also Sunderland or Wolverhampton. French players who are used to getting on the ball end up watching it fly over their heads for 90 minutes."

The People's Award (for saying stuff we like)

A big 'well done' to Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard, nominated from this Q&A session. Question: If you had supreme power, what's the first thing you would do to improve the Premier League?

Answer: Probably create a luxury tax. Not that that solves every problem, and I'm sure there's others that you can think of, but I think that would help."



Big Sam, above, has managed to silence the outspoken owners at West Ham while Wayne Rooney's award goes to Fulham's Bryan Ruiz

The 'Allo 'Allo Trophy

To Joe Cole after being ambushed by the Canal+ touchline reporter Laurent Paganelli after Lille's 3-1 win over Lyon: "Bon match pour... my team – mon équipe – et... I'm very happy!" He knew that French CSE grade four would come in handy some time.

The Wayne Bridge Award for Best Job in Football

For the third year in succession this award goes to... Wayne Bridge – £92,000 a week, people. That's right. £92,000. A week.

The Keane-Taggart Trophy for Old Comrades

German defender Philipp Lahm, looking back in his autobiography on Jurgen Klinsmann's reign as national manager in the 2006 World Cup: "The experiment with Klinsmann

was a failure. We were only working on our fitness in training. He didn't care much for tactical stuff."

"It was up to the players to come together before a match and discuss how we were going to play. All the players knew after about eight weeks that it was not going to work out with Klinsmann."

The remainder of that campaign was nothing but limiting the damage."

The Kim Jong-il 'Dear Leader, Sun of Communist Future, Shining Star of Paektu Mountain' Trophy

To Angela Westwood, whose regular reports to the sportsdesk on the fortunes of Bridgnorth Town Colts Under-12s are genuinely appreciated. Less so is her job title: "Peripatetic Asses-



The next day: "As soon as Fulham's interest was apparent to me in the summer, and despite very public interest from other clubs, I was only ever intent on joining Fulham." Sure you were, pal; sure you were.

The Nick Clegg Brownnose Cup

Step forward Anfield hopeful Krisztian Adorjan, interviewed by Liverpool's website for the new season. Best ever player in your position?

"Our first-team boss, Kenny Dalglish and Zinedine Zidane. I always loved watching Zizou and have seen some DVDs of our manager and he was a fantastic footballer." Nice try, son.

The Sir Winston Churchill Memorial Award

"It was a win of human values, team spirit, solidarity, responsibility, strength of character, resilience."

Andre Villas-Boas invokes the spirit of the Allies prevailing in the Second World War to describe, err, Chelsea beating Valencia in a game of footy.

Calm down young man, calm down.

The Play School Trophy for Inappropriate Transfers

To Real Madrid for signing seven-year-old Argentinian dribbler Leonel Angel Coira.

The child didn't begin training with the Spanish giants until September, which means he's unlikely to feature in any of this season's El Clasicos.

Services to the British Tattoo Industry

To Birmingham resident Kirk Bradley, whose right arm is now preparing for its third dose of paint in celebration of his beloved Manchester City.

His first was done in 2009 and read: "Manchester City 2011 Champions League Winners".

That was a little previous, so he had it changed to 2012.

After the misadventure in Napoli, an undeterred Kirk prepared for further alterations: "It's going to happen one day," he said bravely.

Happy New Year all.

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Robins denied by late leveller

A CONTROVERSIAL late goal denied Dudley all three points in an entertaining 3-3 derby draw at title-chasing Gornal Athletic in the West Midlands Premier.

It was the hosts who made an early breakthrough when full-back Richard Young crossed and the ball looped over shot-stopper Jay Trevelan at his far post.

Town eventually dragged themselves into the game and they were deservedly level on 17 minutes when a Danny Ludlow corner was headed home by Ross Love.

It was certainly unfair for Dudley to be behind at the break as Mark Swann took advantage of the injury-hit Love to break clean through and beat Trevelan.

Following the restart it only took nine minutes for Dudley to get back level.

Ant Cox broke free of the Gornal defence and with ease placed the ball past James Pemberton.

There were chances at each end but it was the visitors who went ahead with just 15 minutes to go.

It appeared Dan Stretton had given the Robins the lead but the ball had already been handled on the line by Chris Waterhouse.

After Waterhouse's dismissal, Cox made no mistake from the penalty spot.

In the 96th minute Athletic drew level as Swann headed home a Lee Wherton corner from close range.

Waite bags a hat-trick

NATHAN WAITE was Tip-ton's hat-trick hero as they stroled to a 6-0 Midland Alliance win at Willenhall.

His first arrived on 22 minutes when he touched a long throw-in home.

The Lockmen held out until seven minutes before the break when Waite again had a free header after Jack Austin had headed the initial effort off the line.

The hat-trick arrived on 44 minutes from another free header from another long throw.

On 59 minutes James Cooper burst through and dinked the ball over keeper Liam Flynn.

The fifth goal arrived on 76 minutes when another break down the right by Cooper saw him fire a ball into the six-yard box that Flynn half stopped but a deflection diverted it in.

Leigh Downing nipped in to score on 85 minutes.

Moxey fears the January sales will be tough

By Tim Nash

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Jez Moxey today revealed his doubts about Wolves' ability to cash in on the January sales.

Fringe strikers Andy Keogh and Leigh Griffiths are two players that the club are willing to sell next month.

The pair are on loan at Leeds and Hibernian respectively, but Wolves don't see the duo, or other players, attracting much interest based on enquiries they've had so far, combined with the economic climate.

"Apart from the really big clubs, no one seems to have any money," said Moxey. "The message we're getting is that there is very

little money around in the marketplace. Outside of the really big clubs, I think we're seeing, already the fact that not much money's going to be spent.

"I think it's a reflection of the economy generally."

Wolves, who have banked a modest £150,000 for young left back Scott Malone, are keen to cash in on Keogh, whose contract is up in June, and Griffiths, who hasn't started a Premier League game for the club he joined almost a year ago from Dundee for

£150,000. Meanwhile, it has emerged that Wolves paid significantly more for Eggert Jonsson than the £250,000 initially estimated.

Wolves never disclose transfer fees and sources north of the border reported that Jonsson cost £250,000 plus add-ons.

But sources have confirmed the Iceland international, who was out of contract next summer, actually cost between £500,000-£750,000.

Moxey remains confident on Wolves' ability to attract players quickly next month, following the signing of Jonsson. "We did

one before the transfer window and we're hoping we can sign more players too, as soon as possible," he added.

Moxey also dismissed any interest in Stoke striker Kenwyne Jones.

Wolves have been linked with a £5m move for the former Sunderland hitman when the window opens next month.

But Moxey said: "It's completely news to me."

Manager Mick McCarthy is understood to have around £4.5m to spend next month.

McCarthy wants a defensive midfielder and a centre-back to strengthen his squad.

Yeltz hit goal trail to see off Stourport

HALESOWEN eased to a 4-1 win over the Evo-Stik Southern Division One South & West basement side Stourport Swifts.

The home defence made a shaky start as Gareth Davies sliced the ball straight to Kevin Vogeli after just 30 seconds, but goalkeeper Paul Evans made a good blocking save against his former club.

As Halesowen settled, Lee Chilton squared the ball for Mark Smith to poke just wide.

Naveed Arshad put the Yeltz ahead in the 18th minute when he collected Justin Nisbett's high, hanging cross and forced the ball past keeper Hayden Whitcombe.

Halesowen doubled their lead after 35 minutes when Chilton made a speedy run down the left and his cross along goal was turned into his own net by former Yeltz centre-back Dennis Pearce.

Stourport's efforts on goal proved rare although Thomas Boyle hit a low raking drive just past Halesowen's half-time substitute goalkeeper Simon Flower early in the second period.

Arshad claimed his second goal in simple fashion by tapping home Nisbett's cross to make it 3-0 after 59 minutes. A delightful fourth goal followed 90 seconds later when Chilton picked his spot with a delicate chip.

Stourport registered an 80th-minute consolation through Louis Bridges from the penalty spot after Davies was penalised for handball.

Lloyd nets only goal

CAUSEWAY edged Tividale 1-0 in a scrappy Midland Alliance clash.

In the second half home keeper Tom Turner dropped the ball in the area and Chris Russell looked likely to score before he was upended by the goalkeeper.

But the expectant penalty did not materialise.

The game was settled in the 73rd minute when the ever-dangerous Aaron Lloyd latched on to a through ball and rounded a defender before slotting past the stranded Tim Beech.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, December 29, 2011.

GLASSBOYS BACK ON WINNING TRAIL

STOURBRIDGE put successive away defeats behind them with a hard-fought victory at Redditch United.

A bobbly pitch and windy weather meant conditions were not conducive to good football and early on, despite plenty of endeavour, there was a lack of clear chances at either end.

In the 19th minute a right wing cross from Aaron Stringfellow was met by Jimmy Deabill whose header was saved on the line by Lewis Solly, then a minute later at the other end, Aaron Drake slipped a short pass through to Sam Rock who curled a 20-yard shot wide.

Redditch quickly responded with Lee Osborne flashing a shot over the bar from the left-hand side of the box. The visitors had an escape on 25 minutes when a loose header from Nathan Bennett fell to the feet of Tom Berwick, but Sam Smith produced a fine block to deny him. Redditch shaded the remainder of the half with Jake Jones providing a particular threat down the right. However it remained goal-less at the break.

Stourbridge improved after the break, while Redditch were hampered by two enforced changes with the loss of defender Alex Hickman and influential midfielder Tom Warner. Gary Hackett's men went close on 51 minutes when a right-wing corner from Sean Geddes enabled Nathan Bennett to get in a header that drew an unconvincing save from Dean Coleman before the ball was cleared to safety.

Eight minutes later Redditch threatened with Berwick pushing a ball through the left channel area looking to release Osborne away, but Solly was alive to the danger and came off his line well to make a

By Steve Box

clearing tackle on the edge of his box.

Stourbridge made the breakthrough with 61 minutes played. A left-wing corner from Drake was headed out to Ben Billingham who hit a low 25-yard shot through a crowd of players to beat Coleman in the Redditch goal.

Boosted by the goal, the Glassboys soon carved out further chances. Drake's goalbound volley was blocked by Tesfa Robinson and Billingham and Drake were in the thick of the action again moments later with the latter turning the ball past Coleman's right-hand upright.

Redditch sought to respond with a lob from Osborne plucked out of the air by Solly and then with 10 minutes left a glancing header from sub Aaron Williams cleared the crossbar following a left-wing corner from Berwick.

Four minutes from time Leon Broadhurst almost made the game safe for the visitors but his rising shot was tipped over by Coleman.

However Stourbridge saw out the remaining time safely to pick up maximum points.

Harriers boss Burr purrs over rising star Matt

KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS manager Steve Burr believes striker Jamille Matt will not be the last of his young guns to attract attention from other clubs.

Matt has been the subject of three failed bids from Football League club Northampton own, following eight goals in 15 starts in his first full season at Aggborough.

The 22-year-old has seen his star rise quickly in just 13 months of playing full-time football, previously turning out for semi-pro outfit Sutton Coldfield Town.

And Burr claims there are several potential suitors for Matt and other members of his young side, who are nine games unbeaten in the Blue Square Premier.

The Harriers boss said: "There are a lot of clubs who are interested in him and I am pleased about that. He is doing very well with us at the moment and I am sure that will continue."

"I know that there are clubs watching him and watching one or two others, as well."

Burr has pointed out that Harriers are no longer in a position where they are desperate to sell and would want top dollar for any of their stars.

This time last year the club was on the verge of administration with players and staff going unpaid but that storm now appears to have passed.

Burr said: "It is a lot different to this time last year, when we were obviously feeling it and had to look at getting rid of players."

"Hopefully, that is not the case now and we can build on what we've got. With the young players here, you know it can be hard to keep them because you want to see them progress."

"But, at the same time, we want



Harriers' Lee Hendrie in an aerial challenge with Jan Klukowski

them to progress with us and get us into the Football League.

"We have already got targets for ourselves, a couple of players we would like to bring in."

Jack Byrne's second-half winner against Forest Green Rovers on Boxing Day stretched Kidderminster's unbeaten run to nine matches.

Midfielder Byrne struck in the

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Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge DY8 1JN

Opening hours Mon - Thurs 11am - 10pm, Fri - Sat 11am - 11pm, Sun 11am - 10pm

Any Size Pizza*

£9.99

Collection or Delivery
*T&C applies Exp 15/01/2012

thechronicle

Unmissable **HALF PRICE** offers from Leekes, the home experts



Local home department store Leekes of Bilston have just unveiled their biggest ever sale.

There's an impressive array of half price offers on a whole host of essentials for every room in the home - including sofas, beds, kitchens, bathrooms, dining sets, accessories and more.

And, having recently celebrated their first, very successful year of trading in the Midlands, Managing

Director Emma Leeke commented: "This winter we wanted to offer our customers something unmissable - and with more half price offers than ever before, I think we've succeeded."

"My team have carefully selected an exciting yet practical mix of home essentials which combine quality, practicality, style - and affordability."

Before 2nd January, customers will also receive a **store voucher worth 10%*** of their Leekes purchase when they spend £50 or more.

PLUS AN EXTRA

10% BACK*

**IN STORE VOUCHERS
ENDS THIS WEEKEND**

HALF PRICE offers across the store

Shop online at leekes.co.uk

Bilston, Great Bridge Road, West Midlands. WV14 8LB
Telephone **0845 050 8240**

■ Furniture ■ Beds ■ Carpets ■ Interior Design ■ Sound & Vision ■ Conservatories, Windows & Doors ■ Kitchens
■ Accessories ■ Bathrooms ■ Fitness & Leisure Clothing ■ Lighting ■ Home Textiles ■ Fire Studio ■ Paint & Wallpaper

Leekes
You're home

Top half price offers

Emma Leeke's top picks in the Leekes winter sale include:

Dyson DC25i

Upright vacuum cleaner with cyclone and ball technology.
Was £359 | Sale **£179**

Jamie Oliver by Tefal

16cm saucepan with lid.
Was £54 | Sale **£27**

Casa Mirage

Black wall hung electric fire.
Was £299 | Sale **£149**

Morphy Richards

Two slice stainless steel toaster.
RRP £39.99 | Sale **£19.99**

Brushed Steel Kettle

RRP £59.99 | Sale **£29.99**

Christy Charlton Gold

Jacquard design double duvet cover in rich gold tones.
RRP £125 | Sale **£62.50**

Casa Rachael

Sleek white acrylic curved freestanding bath.
Was £999 | Sale **£499**



Hot looks for homes in 2012!

Jo Griffiths Interior Design Consultant at Leekes picks her highlights from the latest collections and shows you how to get the look for your lounge for less.



- 1 The Casa Pedro sofas are in this season's hottest shade of teal and great value at £899 for a three and two seater sofa set.
- 2 Make a real style statement with this silver Stella starburst clock; half price at £15.
- 3 Co-ordinate with these funky little table lamps available in ivory or teal - now half price at just £15 each.
- 4 Add assorted scatter cushions in contrasting shades to bring extra luxe to your look; only £5 each.

BIGGEST EVER
HALF PRICE

sale

PLUS AN EXTRA

10%

BACK*
IN STORE VOUCHERS
ENDS THIS WEEKEND

HALF PRICE



Casa Kember

Acacia wood veneered table with six slatted back chairs.

Was £1799
Sale **£899**

HALF PRICE

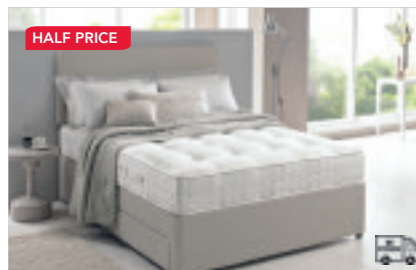


Casa Warwick

Striking red leather three seater sofa with plush arms.

Was £1799
Sale **£899**

HALF PRICE



Rest Assured Timara

Double four drawer storage divan set with orthopaedic support.

Was £1099
Sale **£549**

Choose from a fantastic selection of **HALF PRICE** offers for every room.

LOWEST PRICE
GUARANTEED**

Leekes
You're home

Shop online at leekes.co.uk Bilston, Great Bridge Road, West Midlands. WV14 8LB | Telephone 0845 050 8240

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There's more than you might expect at Leekes

With 35 departments over two floors and quite literally thousands of products to choose from, it's no wonder Leekes of Bilston is proving a popular destination.

With so much choice and variety, it really is worth taking the time to investigate just what is available in the West Midlands' largest new department store. You'll be surprised!

As well as the wide range of sofas, dining sets, beds and bedroom furniture available on the furniture floor and the state of the art kitchen, bathroom and conservatory studios, there is also a large range of accessories to provide your finishing touches and help you shop for everything you need, under one roof.

Store Manager Tony Squires sums up the Leekes approach: "We don't just sell bathrooms - but also the

tiles, paint, towels, lights and accessories to complete your look; and this the case for every room in your home."

"You'll even find fitness equipment to kick start your new year regime and leisure clothing from leading brands like Animal, Weird Fish, Protest, Craghoppers, Regatta and O'Neill."

The store also offers a modern and comfortable café serving teas, coffees and a range of hot and cold snacks including freshly prepared sandwiches and baked potatoes.

Superb sale savings on these BIG brands



Leekes home department store at Bilston



BIG savings on BIG brands too...



The G Plan Upholstery Studio offers the latest models with up to **30% off RRP**.



Built to last, the beautiful Ercol cabinet collection is available at **25% off RRP**.



The ultimate in sleep technology, a Tempur bed guarantees a good night's sleep with **25% off RRP**.



Durable yet timeless, the Le Creuset collection is available at **up to 20% off selected lines**.



Enjoy **up to 30% off** the latest looks from the Animal autumn/winter collection.



Create your own sanctuary with the latest innovations from Jacuzzi - now **20% off RRP**.

Why Leekes?

We like to think that being a family-owned business selling everything for the home all under one roof makes us unique, but there are lots of other reasons why we stand out from the crowd.

Flexible & Affordable Finance†

Flexible & Affordable Finance. From interest free credit with no deposit on selected items to low APR finance on conservatories.

Home Delivery Service

When we deliver your goods, we'll contact you on the morning of delivery with an estimated arrival time and unpack your goods, taking the packaging away for recycling.

Online Shopping

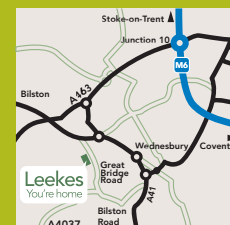
Thousands of items available to purchase at the click of a button at leekes.co.uk.

360° Complete Service

We like to help customers with every aspect of their home improvements. Ask about our free design, planning and project management service.

Price Promise*

Our commitment to offer the best price - supported by our money back guarantee.



For details of all our offers visit leekes.co.uk
Bilston Great Bridge Road, West Midlands WV14 8LB
 Telephone **0845 050 8240**

Increase your living space with style

Extending or converting space in our homes rather than moving house is a trend that looks set to continue as the property market continues to stagnate. If you have a growing family and are in need of more living space, or you simply want somewhere to relax and escape from the day to day stresses of modern life, then a conservatory, orangery or glass veranda could be the perfect solution.

With over 100 years of history, Leekes is a family owned business that has been trusted by thousands of people to undertake their home improvement projects. With industry accredited Design Consultants and a constantly evolving range of styles and designs, Leekes can tailor make a solution to suit your needs and budget.



The Casa conservatory – a fantastic new addition to your home



A Leekes orangery will be the envy of friends and neighbours



Bring the outside in with a glass veranda extension

An orangery, with its partially solid construction and signature lantern style roof provides the perfect solution for a kitchen extension, dining room or multi purpose space in which to relax. By adding a large expanse of bi-folding doors or patio sliders across one aspect, you can enjoy easy access to your garden and truly invite the outdoors in.

Alternatively, Leekes offer a wide range of conservatories from the more traditional white or wood grain to a range of coloured foil finishes and even tiled roof options. Our 3m x 3m Casa conservatory starts from **only £9,995**.

For those looking for something a bit different, a glass veranda extension offers an all-weather alfresco style conservatory that can be entirely

opened up with bi-fold doors or in-line sliders, complete with a weather protected outside space.

Leekes offer a full 360° service which includes design, obtaining all planning permission, project management, installation and a comprehensive 10 year guarantee. A full range of finance options is also available with deposits from just £100 and **7.9% APR representative.***



An Orangery can offer a perfect combination of kitchen, dining and living space

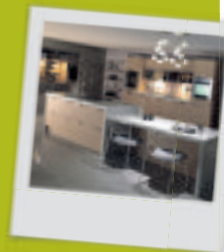


Book your design appointment TODAY!

Arrange your FREE design consultation by calling 0845 050 8240 or book online at leekes.co.uk/quote

Leekes Kitchens | Fact File

- Over 40 kitchens on display from leading brands including Rotpunkt, Sheraton, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Cucina and Casa
- Choose from hundreds of styles, colours and finishes
- Integrated appliances from leading brands including Neff, Caple, Stoves and Hotpoint
- Durable yet stylish worktops in granite, silestone, glass, wood, corian or maia
- Complete 360° design and installation service available



Leekes Bathrooms | Fact File

- Over 100 bathrooms and showers on display
- State of the art design and innovation from leading brands including Heritage, Jacuzzi, Kohler, Utopia, Roman, Daryl and more
- Stylish storage solutions and brassware available
- Coordinating bathroom accessories and tiles available to complete your look
- Complete 360° design and installation service available



**BIGGEST EVER
HALF PRICE**

sale



**Charles Rennie Mackintosh
Framed Natural Oak**

Solid oak framed cabinets with veneered centre panels

Sale | Half price cabinets**

HALF PRICE
PLUS FREE TILES†**

**Complete
bathroom
for under
£500**

RAK Reserva

Contemporary curved bath plus toilet with soft close seat and basin with pedestal (excludes brassware)

Was £950 | **Sale £475**

FREE TILES
with every kitchen
or bathroom order†

**PLUS AN EXTRA IN STORE
10% BACK* VOUCHERS
ENDS THIS WEEKEND**

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Leekes
You're home

*Conditions and minimum spend applies; Maximum £500 of vouchers on monies received, not order value. ** Discounts applies to doored cabinets only, excludes plumbing and electrics, ex-display and clearance lines. Discounts vary according to range. †Conditions apply, see in store for details. Free tiles from our promotional range to the value of 10% of total purchase up to a maximum of £750 in kitchens or £500 in bathrooms. ‡Finance is subject to status, conditions apply.